

I came to Congress to save this country from bankruptcy, and I will not stand idly by as such dangerous legislation is pushed on a partisan basis through the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, oppose this tax and spending spree.

IT IS TIME TO RAISE THE DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we have often turned to Lincoln. My good friends on the other side of the aisle have tried to be Lincolnesque, but I don't think they have dug deep into the virtues of Abraham Lincoln. They didn't delve deeply into his sense of courage and integrity.

We know that his ultimate goal was to preserve the Union, as it should have been. He was, in fact, the President of the United States of America, not of the Union States, not of the Confederate States. But often as they pretend Lincolnesque, it is abandoned along the trash heap of highways of despair.

First of all, the Build Back Better Act is paid for over 10 years, in contrast to the debacle voted on, to a one, by my friends on the other side of the aisle, of the Trump tax cut, 83 percent for those who were already flourishing in dollars, while it left the bus drivers and teachers and paramedics, nurses and emergency room doctors, along the highway with tin cups.

Any plan for embellishing, staffing—and that is what it is—for the Internal Revenue Service, of which we should continue to have oversight, is to ensure that those who have paid not a dime—not a dime—not a dime, Mr. Speaker—pay their fair share.

Do you think any American is against that? I have seen Republicans, Democrats, and Independents who are crucially asking the question: Am I carrying the entire burden?

My friends stand stalwart, the Republicans; they are not going to raise the debt ceiling. First of all, it is the full faith and credit of the United States. Read the Constitution. It is to ensure that America's bills, money already spent, are paid.

Just like you use your electricity, you are paying ahead of time; you are paying for the bill already spent. The electricity, the light was on for 20 days. You are paying for that light to be on.

I am sad to say that there are so many who can't make ends meet, can't pay the light bill. I have heard it often. Can't pay rent; can't pay the water bill.

So I am going to start with two icons from different eras about the word "courage."

Abraham Lincoln eloquently spoke in 1862—he was a most visionary writer—"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present." All

that we talked about, all the contentiousness of yesteryear, you need to put it aside. "The occasion is piled high . . ."—this day, this month, this 2021, this in the midst of a national health emergency, is piled high ". . . with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so must we think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

Is anyone here willing to save their country? Are they willing to join as Americans to save the country?

I know 2022 is coming. Great campaign ads about what Democrats did. I am glad that my terminology will be what an American did by the name of SHEILA JACKSON LEE. What did she do?

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently," said the iconic and late Maya Angelou, who I had the privilege of teaching me. What a great memory I have of her being my professor.

So I want to speak this morning on the cruciality of moving forward on the INVEST Act and the Build Back Better Act. Without a doubt, I want to be able to not give short shrift to the 2 years of free pre-K and 2 years of free community college, paid for, giving Americans the front-end and giving the opportunity to be able, for some, to be in college for the first time. They are moving on to historically Black colleges of their choice or other colleges of their choice.

What about the Federal Medicaid program, when 12 States failed to opt in during the Affordable Care Act and left a trash heap of desperate people. Not the people desperate, but on the heap of despair, no healthcare, because they were below the threshold. Our friends as well decided not to do anything.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, how important it is to have the INVEST Act, with making sure we have broadband and making sure that we have high-speed internet as well as highways that work not against us but for us.

Let's do the right thing and have the courage of Americans. Let's stand for America.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALAN JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual from my district for his work to keep both Iowans and Americans healthy.

Alan Johnson, a professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Iowa, has been selected for the 2021 Excellence Award for Hypertension Research by the American Heart Association's Council on Hypertension.

This award by the American Heart Association is given to members of the scientific community who have had a major impact in research that has contributed to better understanding the causes and effects of hypertension.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a common cardiovascular condition that affects millions of Americans a year and is a major contributor of both strokes and heart attacks.

I am proud of Professor Johnson for his decades of research into the effects, causes, and treatments of this condition, and I congratulate him for earning this prestigious award.

THANK YOU TO STEAD FAMILY CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and I would like to take a moment to thank my district for their work in treating and researching childhood cancer.

A staple to my district and to the Iowa City community is the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, located right across the street from Kinnick Stadium. You all might know it well from the "wave," one of college football's greatest traditions.

The Stead Family Children's Hospital specializes in treating pediatric patients, winning several awards for their specialties in not only pediatric cancer but also orthopedics and cardiology, among others.

Our gratitude for helping these children extends beyond the staff of Stead Family Children's Hospital. Many University of Iowa students and members of the Iowa City community use their free time to volunteer just to brighten a child's day.

Thank you to the men and women in Iowa who are working to treat and research childhood cancer and to those who use their time to comfort children who are currently battling it, a disease no child or parent should face alone.

HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINS AWARD

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of childhood education and how a school in my district is taking extra strides to ensure their students' success.

At Hills Elementary School in Hills, Iowa, one out of four students are in the process of learning English as their second language. This is far higher than the average rate in Iowa being 12 percent.

Though many might see this language disparity as a barrier to student achievement, this year, Hills Elementary was selected as one of 325 schools to win a National Blue Ribbon School Award from the U.S. Department of Education, with 81 percent of students at the school showing improvement in their academics.

Beginning in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon School Award has been used to recognize American schools for their academic excellence.

I couldn't be prouder of both the students and faculty at Hills Elementary,